

Division of Commercial Fisheries
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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release:

Contact:

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2021 South Alaska Peninsula Area State-Waters Pacific Cod Season Opening for Pot Gear

Emergency Order 4-GF-06-21

The South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod pot gear season will open at 12:00 noon March 7, 2021, unless delayed by weather. If the National Weather Service marine forecast for Area PKZ155 issued at 4:00 a.m. on March 7, 2020 contains a gale warning, the season opening will be delayed 24 hours. Weather delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis for seven days, after which the season will open regardless of the weather forecast. The 2021 South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL) is 5.28 million pounds. Pot vessels are allocated 85% of the GHL or 4.49 million pounds.

Vessels participating in the South Alaska Peninsula Area state-waters Pacific cod fishery may not exceed 58 feet in overall length. Vessel operators must obtain a miscellaneous finfish pot gear interim-use permit card from the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission and an exclusive state-waters vessel registration from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) prior to participating in the state-waters fishery.

Pot vessels may not operate more than 60 groundfish pots and buoy tags are required for all pot gear. Vessel operators may store open and unbaited groundfish pots at any depth starting March 1, 2021. Once the state-waters season opens, only 60 groundfish pots with buoy tags attached may be fished. Untagged pots in excess of the 60-pot limit may be stored in waters less than 25 fathoms in depth or be on board the vessel for up to seven days after the state-waters season opening. After seven days, only 60 tagged groundfish pots may be in the water or on board a vessel participating in the state-waters fishery.

Due to health concerns related to COVID-19 and to minimize contact between vessel operators, processor staff, and ADF&G staff, the vessel registration process has been streamlined and can be completed remotely. Vessel operators are encouraged to register by contacting the Kodiak ADF&G office by phone, mail, email, or fax. Buoy tags for pot gear vessels will be provided free of charge and can be mailed directly to vessel operators upon request. Vessel registration and buoy tags are also available at ADF&G in Kodiak and Dutch Harbor, Trident Seafoods in Sand Point, and Peter Pan Seafoods in King Cove and Sand Point.

Tender vessel operators must obtain a tender vessel registration for the state-waters Pacific cod fisheries and must use the tLandings electronic reporting application to report all groundfish delivered to a tender vessel. For more information, contact ADF&G in Kodiak at (907) 486-1840.

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COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Orders 5, 6, and 8, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Orders. COVID-19 Health Orders may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-order/>

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